



## **75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

## **PFC. BLAKE W. SAMODELL**

### **Died on September 15, 2005**

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*Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high “esprit de corps” of my Ranger Regiment... - FIRST STANZA OF THE RANGER CREED*

Pfc. Blake W. Samodell, 24, was an infantryman assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Wash.

He died Sept. 15, 2005, while conducting an airborne training operation.

A native of Brush Prairie, Wash., Samodell was born April 30, 1981. He enlisted in the Army May 2004. After completing one station unit training, airborne school and Ranger indoctrination training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regt., in December 2004.

Samodell deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005.

“PFC Samodell was a hard-working and motivated Ranger. He was extremely proud to be a member of Charlie Company,” said Capt. Scott Naumann, commander, C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regt. “He completed every task with vigor and excitement and will be sorely missed. He made countless friends whose thoughts and prayers are with him.”

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge and Basic Parachutist Badge.

Samodell is survived by his mother, Vicki A. Samodell, of Davenport, Wash., his father, William T. Samodell, of Phoenix, Ariz., brother, Bryce A. Samodell of Phoenix, Ariz., and his fiancé, Amy Mirena Sandaker of University Place, Wash.

As a Ranger, Pfc. Blake W. Samodell distinguished himself as a member of the Army’s premier light infantry unit, traveled to all corners of the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism and fought valiantly to “uphold the prestige, honor, and high ‘esprit de corps’” of the Ranger Regiment.



**- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -**